S
353.77
H6MHS
1992

Montana Historical Society
The Montana Historical Society report to the 53rd Legislative Assembly and the State of Montana

MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REPORT

TO THE

53RD LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

AND THE

STATE OF MONTANA

STATE DOCUMENTS COLLECTION

JAN 1 1993

MONTANA STATE LIBRARY
1515 E. 6th AVE.
HELENA, MONTANA 59620

PLEASE RETURN

DECEMBER 1, 1992

SEP 1 1 2008

MONTANA STATE LIBRARY
MONTANA STATE LIBRARY
3 0864 0016 3313 3

THE SOCIETY'S MISSION

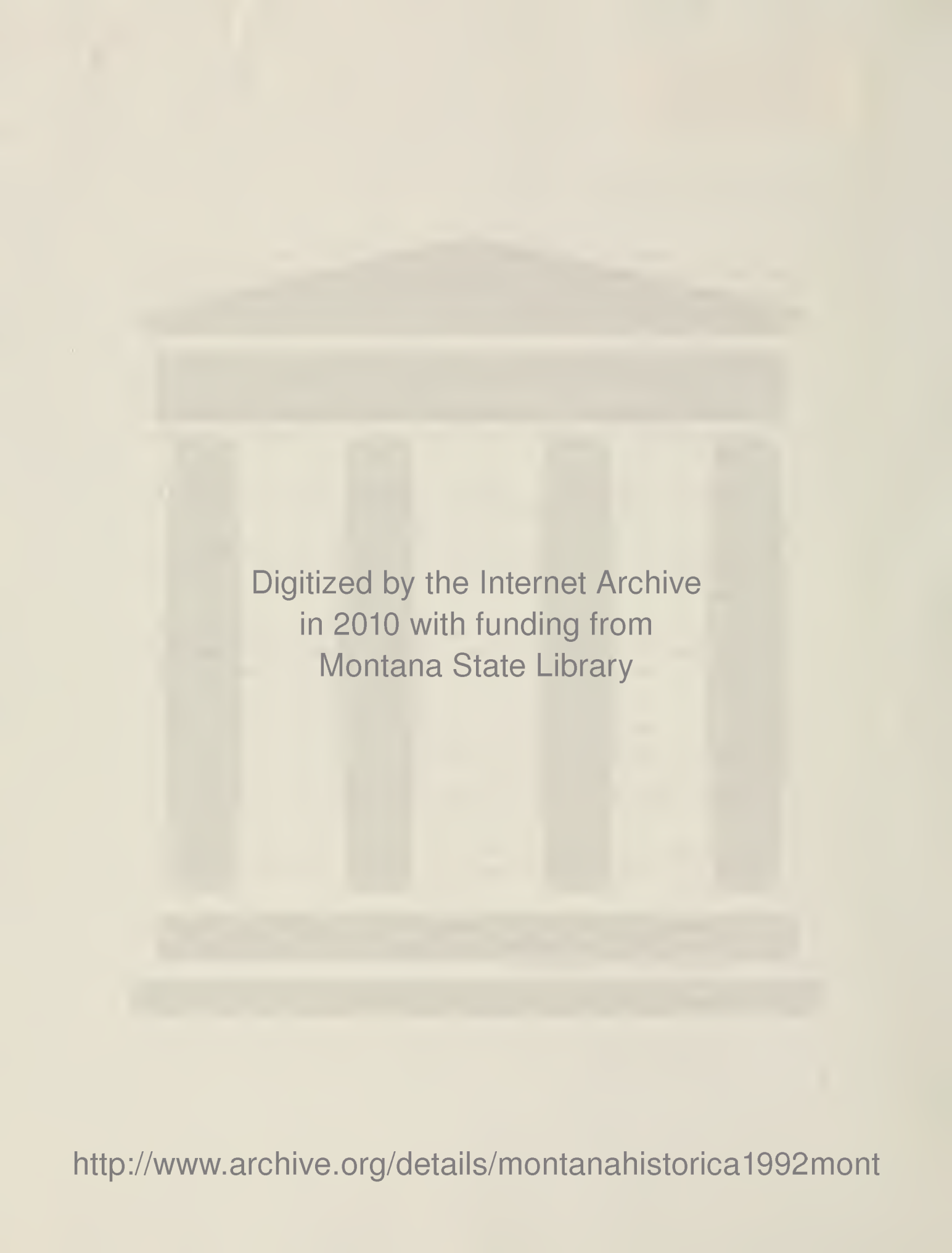
Since its founding in 1865, the Montana Historical Society has remained firmly committed to preserving and interpreting Montana and western American history. This is the foundation upon which all Society program activity is built.

As outlined by statute since the Society became a state agency in 1891, the mission of the Montana Historical Society is to:

> Collect, preserve, and interpret material that reflects and documents the history and prehistory of Montana and the region.
>
> Interpret Montana history through study, exhibits, publications, and educational programs.
>
> Encourage the preservation of Montana's historical, architectural, archaeological, and related cultural resources.
>
> Encourage and support high-quality research, publications, and exhibits that interpret local, state, and regional history, and cooperate with other institutions toward those ends.

Keeping its statutory mission in mind, the Society's major goals for long-term growth and development are:

> To continually improve the level and quality of service the Society provides to all its constituents.
>
> To improve the support services and facilities required to preserve properly the collected materials entrusted to the Society.
>
> To enhance the Society's reputation and develop its presence as not only the oldest but also the finest historical organization in the West.
>
> To consistently exceed visitor expectations.
>
> To be among the very best historical organizations, anywhere, at which to work.


Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2010 with funding from
Montana State Library

http://www.archive.org/details/montanahistorica1992mont

SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS AND PROGRAMS

The Montana Historical Society is organized into four operating units, each headed by a program manager who reports to the Society director. These units are Library/Archives, Museum, Publications, and State Historic Preservation Office.

Overall, Society management is the responsibility of an administration program, which includes the director's office, public information, business office, personnel, security, facilities management, and state government liaison. The Society's membership is also part of administration.

ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM

OVERVIEW

The Centralized Services at the Society provides Security, Public Relations, Accounting, Personnel and other support services to all agency programs.

The Security unit provides overall security for the agency and its irreplaceable collections. Security includes maintenance of the intrusion security system, passive observation of visitors, crowd control for public events, checking of parcels, bags, etc. when visitors and staff depart, and providing emergency and accident response. As important is the public information aspect of the responsibilities for security courteously provides information to visitors on the exhibits, Montana history, travel in Montana, sites and services in Helena and to answer other questions as needed.

The program's public information office provides public information to inform thousands of Montanans about events, exhibits and other services designed to educate people about Montana's heritage and to further efforts to collect and preserve the State's history. This is accomplished via news releases, public service announcements, special reports, and national stories.

The work of the Accounting/Personnel unit includes budgeting, accounting, fiscal reporting, maintenance and operation of SBAS on-line, all personnel matters, cash handling, accounts receivable and payable, property control, payroll, building management, expenditure review, contracts, monitoring of federal grants and purchasing. The staff represent the agency in transactions with appropriate government agencies such as the Legislative Auditor, the Budget office and Accounting Division.

1992/1993 BIENNIUM

The public information office produced more than 100 news releases during the period and generated numerous public service announcements and other electronic media programs that were aired statewide. Major stories with pictures on topics ranging from the donation of Sitting Bull's weapons to the Society to historic sign programs for properties on the National Register of Historic Places appeared in every major newspaper in the state and many weekly papers.

The program generated stories nationally that highlighted

historical museums and sites available in Montana, and answered inquiries from such organizations as the Old West Trail Foundation, travel publications, tour agents and other organizations.

The program also generated special reports on issues faced by the Society and ways to address them.

The Accounting function implemented an Accounts Receivable software package. This system has enhanced SBAS and computerized functions that were performed manually. As a result of this new system the Society produces computerized statements, control reports, age analysis reports, year end reports providing accrual information, also customer accounts are now updated daily and any questions concerning customers' accounts such as payments or balances can be obtained momentarily and are current. This saves an enormous amount of time, reduces the amount of errors, and overall has enhanced the credibility of the Society to its clients.

Also during the last Biennium a major percentage of Accounting and Personnel time has been attributed implementing results of the actions of the two Legislative Special Sessions. The time spent was attributed to determining where and how the Agency could take cuts without devastation to the Society. The time was also spent allocating and implementing the actual cuts appropriated by the Legislature.

During the last Biennium Centralized Services has on an annual average:

- Provided Security of the collections and provided information to 90,363 visitors.

- Performed 3,225 Security inspections.

- Produced more than 100 news releases during the report period and generated numerous public service announcements and other electronic media programs that were aired statewide.

- Maintained grant and contract management for 61 awards.

- Processed 2,700 SBAS documents and 3,017 warrants for the applicable claims.

- Maintained the Accounts Receivable System for 568 clients and process 6,816 applicable statements.

- Reviewed 408 SBAS Centers for accuracy and budgetary control.

- Tracked 5 programs monthly.

- Processed 1,400 Payroll forms and records.

1994/1995 BIENNIUM

The Society has requested an additional .5 FTE Security guard to allow opening the Society on weekends and most holidays throughout the year. It would also allow increased staffing on weekends which would permit the Society to open the upper floors of the building to public access.

An increase in the Society's Public Information Officer is anticipated to increase the amount of information disseminated by the Society, particularly in the areas of programming and collections, to achieve a level of awareness in those areas which will better serve the Montana public.

Although no additional moneys have been requested for the Accounting/Personnel aspect of this program, we plan to expand our Software capabilities to include a Budget spreadsheet to provide an effective budgeting tool. Plans are also made to enhance the Merchandise system to more appropriately coincide with the Statewide Budgeting Accounting System.

Efforts to find new and better ways to improve the Security, Accounting System, the citizen access and awareness of Society programs and services including such things as remote teleconferencing, video conferencing and Historical videos is underway.

The focus of this program is to provide Security for the collections of the state, provide information to the visitors, maintain an Accounting System in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, and to take the Society into every corner of this state and to involve as many citizens as possible in preserving Montana heritage.

LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES PROGRAM

The Library and Archives program incorporates four functional sections. Dating its collecting from 1865 and its public reference service from 1887, the library is the oldest department of the Society. Although pioneer diaries and correspondence had long been collected, and the Society had already taken in some state records for safekeeping, the state archives was not officially created until 1969. The photographic archives became a separately-maintained collection in 1974, while the oral history section has

operated since 1981.

The program houses and services the nation's premiere collection of Montana-related books, manuscripts, photographs, newspapers, magazines, government records and paper ephemera. Its collections contain over 100,000 volumes, 150,000 historical images, 14,000 reels of microfilm, 16,000 maps, 1,500 taped interviews, and 11,000 cubic feet of manuscripts and territorial and state government records.

A staff of 15 is responsible for collecting, organizing, preserving, and assisting the public and the staff of other Society programs in the use of this wealth of research material. For security and preservation, materials do not circulate, but are made available to visitors through two public reference rooms. The program also operates a darkroom to provide photographic prints to the public and for exhibits, and shares with the museum the use of a small conservation laboratory. The Archives provides a special service to other state offices, helping them identify their records which have historical value, and arranging for their transfer to the archives for permanent keeping and research use. The program encourages significant new contributions to Montana history through the annual James H. Bradley Summer Fellowships. Funded by an endowment from a private citizen, the Bradleys support two scholars during a four weeks research residency. The scholars are expected to later submit an article for possible publication in the Society's quarterly magazine. The State Archivist serves as the coordinator and chair of the gubernatorially-appointed State Historic Records Advisory Council, which reviews and makes recommendations to the National Historical Publications and Records Commission on proposals from Montana institutions seeking federal grant funds for archival projects.

Fiscal Year 92 Activities and Accomplishments

Reference, Research, Technical and Professional Assistance

The program's most visible public service is assisting visitors in its two public reference rooms, that of the library and the archives which is open 8-5 weekdays, and that of the photo archives, where a lack of sufficient staff restricts the public hours to afternoons only. Staff help students, genealogists, academic scholars, other state employees, contract historians, and a broad spectrum of the general public from Montana and out-of-state find material in the collections pertinent to their interests, and, as subject experts in Montana history, often advise on interpreting these materials. Reference staff also respond to requests by mail and telephone both for information on Montana history and, from libraries, historical societies and museums, and local governments around the state and sometimes from their colleagues in other states, for professional advice on the proper handling of such special materials as business records

or historical photographs.

The program experienced a new annual record 3,504 researcher visits during FY92. The quarterly total of 1,035 registrants from July through September, 1991, has been topped only by the 1,215 of the same quarter just past. It also responded to 2,580 requests for information by mail, of which 70% came from outside Montana, and to over 10,600 telephone inquiries. Contributing to the general upsurge in inquiries has been the recent burst of movie-making in Montana, as the production companies of both Far and Away and A River Runs Through It made heavy use of the reference and photograph services, especially by phone and mail. Staff fielded such questions from the scriptwriters for the Robert Redford film as whether the term "elementary school" would have been used in the 1920's, and what was the name of the Missoula elementary school that Norman Maclean would have gone to if he had not been tutored at home by his father. They also helped an assistant to the actor playing Paul locate newspaper articles in the 1937 Helena Independent written by the actual Paul Maclean. Calls from designers of the sets for Tom Cruise's film being shot in Billings set staff to searching the library's collection for a poster that was both colorful and displayed prominently the date 1912, to lend authenticity to the setting during a brief camera pan. This eventually resulted in providing a reproduction of an advertisement for a hot-air balloon show, the visual interest of the picture overriding the fact the actual event had been in 1928. The success of the PBS Civil War documentary has inspired no fewer than three producers to attempt a similiar series on the 19th-century west, all of whom have made and are still making frequent and usually urgent requests for copies of photographs and photocopies of any dramatic but relatively unknown diaries or batches of pioneer correspondence, as well as for factual information.

A special, good will service provided by the library is the "school packet." This contains an assortment of brochures, post cards, a current travel guide and highway map, and a copy of a 20-page booklet entitled Montana, A Classroom Guide to the Study of the State, compiled by the reference historian, and published with funding support from the Office of Public Instruction. In FY92, 429 of these packets were sent in response to the pleas of school children around the nation for free materials about Montana and its history to fulfill an assigned school project.

The Photo Archives produced 1,507 prints for the public from photographs in the collection, including 47 exhibit-quality prints for the Prairie County Museum, 17 for the Western Heritage Center in Billings for an exhibit on the Yellowstone Valley, and 32 for the Amon Carter Museum in Fort Worth, Texas, for a forthcoming book on Charles M. Russell. 38 extra high-quality prints were also produced for the Society's own "Medicine in Montana" exhibit.

The Archives staff responded to 200 requests from 76 state offices for advice and assistance on records, and also advised records custodians in Mineral, Glacier, Musselshell, Stillwater and Yellowstone Counties. The archives also provided a two-day, intensive introduction to the special methodologies of archives work to staff from the recently-established Crow tribal archives at Big Horn Community College.

For their preservation and to ensure their availability when called for, most of the program's materials must be used in the public reading rooms. It does, however, share its most sought-after resource with researchers everywhere through the interlibrary loan of microfilm copies of its Montana newspapers. In FY 92, the library responded to 642 loan requests and mailed out 3,210 reels of microfilm, as well as some non-rare books of which it has duplicate copies.

Collection Development

Building and improving its diverse collections is another primary function of the Library and Archives Program. These collections are the present Society's main legacy to the future. In FY92, the library maintained about its average rate of acquisition as it accessioned 3,592 items, including 328 books. It also checked in the 4,600+ issues of every Montana daily and weekly newspapers. The archives acquired 59 new manuscript collections totalling 401 cubic feet, and took in 257 cubic feet of older state records from other agencies. The photographic archives acquired 4,216 additional images.

For most of these acquisitions, the program relied on the generosity of private donors or other institutions. While the library section has some monies for acquiring material in its general fund budget and uses it principally to purchase pertinent books and magazines before they go out-of-print and become, ultimately, more expensive and time-consuming to obtain, purchases comprised less than 20% of the library's additions. All the additions to the archives and photo archives came by gift or, in a few cases with photographs, through the trade of duplicates with private collectors. All told, 185 private citizens and other institutions donated materials.

Important photograph collections acquired included 348 images from a donor in Chinook, of families, buildings and scenes of the Hollandville community in Blaine County, 299 photographs from a Missoula resident recording her father's military service in the Pacific in World War II with the regiment drawn from the Montana National Guard, and 173 photographs of agricultural equipment and rural work and social events of the 1920's from the Lewis & Clark County Extension Office.

The Archives received valuable additional material for its Evelyn

Cameron collection from the biographer of the English expatriate who produced a remarkable photographic documentation of homesteading in eastern Montana early in the century. 15 feet of records documenting the state's management of its forested lands from 1920 through 1989 were transferred from the Forestry Division in Missoula. A subject area in which holdings were weak was much improved by the family's donation of 26 feet of the papers of Perry Melton, Kalispell native, an activist in organized labor, and the editor of the Treaure State Labor Journal. The papers span 59 years of activity, starting in 1930. Almost equally extensive a period of time is covered in the 11 linear feet of the papers of Dave M. Manning, which document many of Mr. Manning's business activities as well as his years in the legislature from 1933 through 1984. The senator from Hysham became the longest-serving state legislator in history before his retirement.

For the library, it was a banner year for additions to what is already the nation's most complete collection of Montana newspapers. Especially important was the discovery that the Miles City Public Library had in the original the first 12 years of the first daily newspaper in that most famous of Montana "cowtowns," the Daily Yellowstone Journal. Except for a few scattered issues of the daily, the Society's collection had only the weekly version of the Journal to cover the years 1882 through 1894. The Library's director and its Board of Trustees kindly loaned the daily for microfilming, thus ensuring for all Montanans that its contents would be safely preserved. Also obtained for microfilming was the only issue of the Libby Miner known to be extant, dated November 19, 1892. The newspaper collection received by donation yet another apparent lone survivor, the only known complete issue of the Chronotype, published June 5, 1914 in Carter, in Chouteau County, along with the first issue it has ever had of another Carter paper, the Herald, dated in 1918. While private citizens and other libraries hold a few more issues of the Herald, no sizable run of this homesteading town newspaper, which apparently published for over thirteen years, has yet come to light. By trading for some duplicate city directories with private collectors, the library also acquired six additional issues of the Helena Rocky Mountain Gazette for 1872. It is an unusual year when this many previously unheld newspaper titles and issues can be added.

Inventorying, Cataloging and Processing

Until cards for books and maps are put in the public card catalog, and sorting, weeding, arranging and inventories done for the incoming collections of manuscripts, records and photographs, the materials are not truly accessible to the public. This crucial work goes on unseen and unheralded, but necessarily occupies a good deal of staff time, of which there is not always enough to keep up.

The library's cataloger and technical processing staff did succeed in keeping up with the year's acquisitions, and even in clearing some gift items and problems from earlier years. The library entered 1,135 new records into the Western Library Network (WLN), the regional data base used by hundreds of libraries in the Pacific Northwest. Because the donations are often large in bulk, and a large manuscript or records collection can take months to process and inventory with any thoroughness, the archives is usually not able to process as much material as it receives during a given year. Archives staff did complete processing on 32 collections, totalling 165 cubic feet. A brief summary description and some subject headings for every collection taken in were added to the automated and manual catalogs, thus providing some broad access. The photo archives faces even a messier situation, inasmuch as, while manuscripts and records often have some order given them by their creator or originating office that permits a general "box inventory" to be done fairly quickly, many donations of photographs come as boxes of unorganized images which must be sifted and arranged into some order before a user can locate possibly relevant photographs without searching through the entire collection. While the photo archives, lacking sufficient staff to assign someone to cataloging and inventorying as a principal duty, could not complete a detailed inventory on any collection, such sorting was completed on six collections totalling 4,351 images, and, as with the archives, some control over and some access to all collections received during the year was gained through a descriptive accession record maintained by microcomputer.

Preservation

In the Library and Archives program, the present and the future are sometimes in conflict. With its reference and research services, its finding aids and catalogs, its entries in dozens of national directories that describe its collections, and through entering its current acquisitions into WLN, the Pacific Northwest regional network, and its newspaper holdings into a national database tapped by thousands of libraries, the program strives to raise awareness of what is in its collections and thus encourage their use. At the same time, it has statutory responsibility to preserve these same materials as best it can for the use and enjoyment of later generations. Much of its preservation work consists of transferring incoming materials into proper storage containers such as acid-free folders for documents, and inert plastic sleeves for photographs. Materials are also examined for mold or insects, cleaned, paper clips and staples removed, and flattened or humidified as needed. All footage processed by the archives received such attention. In addition, the archives replaced documents too fragile for repeated handling or which were on deterioratied paper such as thermofax with 2,436 permanent paper photocopies, and repaired 72 audiotapes, while the photograph archives cleaned, sleeved and provided proper storage

containers for 6,701 photographs. One of the most pressing preservation problems for the library is protecting heavily-used material which must be used in the original. The Sanborn Fire Insurance maps of over 100 Montana towns and cities present such a case, and much of what time the library could spend on preservation was given to encapsulating the 150 or so map sheets in the Sanborn series for Helena. In all, 345 library items received some treatment.

Oral History Office

From its inception in 1981, the oral history office has been funded by biennial grants from the state through the Cultural and Aesthetic Projects funds. It is now on its final grant award, and will be discontinued in this format after FY93. During its operation, the office has proven itself an effective stimulus for oral history projects all around the state, and has lent the technical expertise of its experienced oral historian, through workshops, visits, phone calls and letters, to scores of local historical societies, schools, and other groups. The oral historian is currently also serving as the president of the Montana Oral History Association. Through FY92, the oral historian presented 15 workshops from Libby to Fromberg and Miles City, including six for the U.S. Forest Service in Missoula to help it prepare for a major interviewing project on the occasion of its centennial. In each biennium, the office has divided its time between assisting other projects, and conducting interviews in a selected subject area, and from selected individual Montanans, to add to the Society's collection. This biennium the subject project is "20th Century Montana Military Veterans," taking advantage of the many golden anniversary reunions and commemerations of World War II units and campaigns that are taking place, such as the reunion in Helena this past August of members of the First Special Service Force, a pioneer combined Canadian and American unit which received its commando-like training in the capital city. The oral historian also seized the opportunity the Gulf War presented to obtain both "before" and "after" interviews from members of the 103rd Public Affairs Detachment, the one unit of the Montana National Guard to be sent to the Gulf. By recruiting and training volunteer interviewers, usually veterans themselves, the office has been able to already complete 64 of a projected 75 interviews for the project. Special attention has been given this biennium to the completing of summaries or transcripts for all the 1,500 interviews conducted through the dozen years of the office's existence, so that by the time it shuts down operations, all its interviews will be fully accessible to the public.

Miscellaneous

* Volunteers contributed 746 hours, roughly the equivalent of 19 work weeks, to such projects as the transcribing of oral

history interviews, the processing of records of organizations with which they were familiar, the adding of material to the library's thousands of quick reference subject and biographical files, and the compiling of an index to the work of individual photographers in the photograph collection.

*In an effort to create better understanding between state and local records managers, the state archives in partnership with the Secretary of State initiated the Local Government Records Advisory Group, to seek ways to assist local governments with their records management. Many valuable historical records generated by counties and other local government bodies are deteriorating or risk being lost because of insufficient or proper storage space and other factors. Part of the long-range plan of the state archives is to take in at least selected older county records to help relieve the burden.

*The library has undertaken a weeding of its periodical collection to both recapture increasingly needed shelf space, and to transfer some of its holdings to other Montana libraries where they will see more use. Through the first 75 years of this century, the library maintained an extensive exchange program with sister historical societies all around the country, and built long runs of such journals as the Ohio State Archeological and Historical Society Quarterly and the North Carolina Historical Review. 249 volumes of these and other journals from historical societies east of the Mississippi have been donated to the libraries at the University of Montana, Montana State University, Montana Tech, and Carroll College where, in support of courses in broader American history, they should prove more useful. Since 1978, the Society library, even with exchanges, has restricted its collecting of journals from other historical societies to those west of the Mississippi.

* The state archivist produced a brief manual which will be made available to out-going officials and administrators to assist them and their office staffs to separate personal papers from official papers that should be transferred to the incoming official or the state archives. The librarian produced a report to the legislature examining the need for improved quality control in the publishing procedures of the state to avoid creating a preservation problem for the future.

Fiscal Year 93 and Beyond

While the program tries to maintain its present variety and level of services and activities, it finds some decisions being coerced by the continuing budget austerities. Surrendering $3,000 in acquisitions funds and virtually all its travel monies to help the agency make the required budget cut quota for FY93, the program had to take a hard look at where it could cut expenses. Five periodical subscriptions have been dropped. Contracts to maintain

and provide upgrades to the specialized software of the library's local area network will not be renewed, and this system slowly taken apart and abandoned. Partly because of the necessary sidetracking of funds to film older but unfilmed newspapers and partly the sidetracking of funds simply to cover other basic operating expenses and fixed costs, the library for the first time in two decades was unable to microfilm all of the previous year's Montana newspapers, and has begun to accumulate a backlog. The uncovering of a run of The Kalispell News, from 1935-1952 at the office of the Interlake, the present Kalispell newspaper, promises to drain microfilming monies further, but to enrich the collection and ensure the preservation of the title.

As for additional projects, the library hopes to have time to continue with its disposal of duplicate or unwanted items. The archives hopes to see the Local Government Records Advisory Committee become permanent through legislation this session, and will be submitting a grant proposal seeking federal funds for a project that will assist local governments in improving their records management and control. The oral history office is seeking a final Cultural and Aesthetics Projects grant, not to sustain the office further, but to underwrite the creation and publication of a Guide to the interviews created by the office.

MUSEUM PROGRAM

The Museum Program collects fine art, historical, archeological, and ethnological artifacts that pertain to Montana and its adjoining geographic region. In addition to caring for the Society's museum collections, program staff conduct research, produce exhibits, sponsor public programs, answer reference requests from the public, and provide technical assistance to other museums and historical societies. During this period the Museum also operated the Original Governor's Mansion as an historic site open to the public. Though it has operated independently in the past, the Education Office was added to the Museum Program during FY92. Tours, school services, conferences, workshops, classes, publications, hands-on activities, and other public events are planned, developed and implemented by the Education Office. This office also administers volunteer services within the Society and coordinates two major annual events-the Montana History Conference and the Montana History Day.

The many public activities of the Museum Program reach a large and diverse audience throughout the state and region. In FY91 and FY92:

* over 188,000 people visited the Society's exhibits
* the Original Governor's Mansion was toured by 18,863 people

* guided tours of the Capitol served approximately 13,600 people
* group tours at the Society totaled 10,200+ individuals
* educational outreach programs served 50,000 individuals

MUSEUM EXHIBITS

Permanent Exhibits include:

* Montana Homeland - covers the story of Montana's human history, 14,000 years ago to World War II
* Mackay Gallery of Charles M.Russell Art - approximately 180 artworks by Montana's most famous western artist
* F.J.Haynes: Photographer - portrays the life and work of the official photographer for both the Northern Pacific Railroad (1884-1904) and Yellowstone National Park (1887-1916)

Temporary Exhibits are featured in the Northeast Gallery, the entrance lobby and the "Reflections" area of the Montana Homeland exhibit. During the last two fiscal years they included:

* Waiting for a Chinook: A History of Montana Winters
* Photographing Montana: The World of Evelyn Cameron, 1894-1928
* Curing Ills and Healing Wounds: Medicine in Montana
* Montana Reflections: Contemporary Photographs-Historic Visions
* Montana's Many Faces: Portraits of Montanans
* The Montana Historical Society - 125 Years
* Documenting the Montana Centennial
* The Photographs of L.A. Huffman
* Branson Stevenson Etchings

The following traveling exhibits, developed by the Museum Program, toured throughout the state and region during the last two years:

* The Montana Centennial Quilt Exhibition
* Montana Reflections: Contemporary Photographs-Historic Visions
* Photographing Montana: The World of Evelyn Cameron 1894-1928
* Butte in the Era of the Copper Kings
* The Stack Dominated Our Lives
* Getting There From Here: A Pictorial History of Roads and Bridges in Montana

A number of small exhibits were developed for display offsite:

First Bank 100th Anniversary
Montana Federation of Teachers
Original Governor's Mansion panel display
MHS informational panel display
Research and design drawings for aviation exhibit at Helena Regional Airport
Poindexter Collection at the Holter Museum
Montana Nurses Association

The Museum loans art and artifacts from its collections to other museums throughout the state and nation for exhibits they produce. Loans were made to the following institutions in FY91 and FY92:

C.M. Russell Museum, Great Falls
Henry Art Gallery, Seattle, Washington
Yellowstone Art Center, Billings
Museum of the Rockies, Bozeman
Paxson Art Gallery, University of Montana, Missoula
Custer County Art Center, Miles City
Holter Museum of Art, Helena
Arts Chateau, Butte
New Mexico Museum of Natural History, Albuquerque
Western Heritage Center, Billings
Hockaday Center for the Arts, Kalispell
Big Fork Art Center, Big Fork
National Mining Hall of Fame, Leadville, Colorado
Museum of American Textile History, Massachusetts

ACQUISITIONS

The Museum Program received 1405 items from 209 individual donors in the last biennium, and more than 1500 objects from the museum collection were individually catalogued. Highlights of the donations to the Museum included the Evelyn Cameron Collection, artifacts owned and used by the turn-of-the-century eastern Montana homesteader/photographer. The family of Episcopal Bishop H.H. Cross donated a cross, watch and ring he used in the 1920s. Mrs. Dee Bristow of Colorado donated items that her father acquired when the family lived on the Crow reservation early this century. Our art collection was improved by the acquisition of 37 etchings by Branson Stevenson, sculpture by Blackfeet carver John L. Clark, and paintings by contemporary native artist Kevin Red Star. The Museum also received furniture purchased for the Original Governor's Mansion in the 1920s and original furnishings purchased in 1959 for the Executive Residence, and a collection of approximately 100 items documenting the Montana Centennial. The Original Governor's Mansion Restoration Board donated a sterling silver carving set for exhibit at the Mansion. Other notable acquisitions included: a full size weaving loom made and used in Lewistown, a 1873 US Springfield rifle which belonged to X. Biedler, and a contemporary table made by a Montana Hutterite.

COLLECTIONS ACTIVITIES

Fine art consultant Harold Rowe assessed and appraised the 100 piece Poindexter Collection of contemporary art. His report enabled the Museum staff to have access to up-to-date insurance valuations and Rowe's opinion of the quality of individual pieces of art in the collection. Our collection of tokens was appraised and identified by consultant Lance Johnson.

Major changes were made in our storage areas. A new storage area for guns was constructed and the entire gun collection was moved. Reorganized storage of the ribbon, medal and button collection was accomplished. Costume and textile collections were rehoused in new storage custom-built by Museum staff.

Conservation activity continued in-house with our trained volunteers cleaning items which were slated for exhibit and items identified as high priority by the Museum staff. Art and objects needing major cleaning or repair were treated by professional conservators on contract. Fragile Chinese textile items (40+), an original Russell model, a Russell oil painting, and four modern art works from the Poindexter Collection were conserved by the Rocky Mountain Conservation Center in Denver. Casting of 71 archaeological artifacts was completed by Marilyn Wyss of Eolithics in Helena. The C.M. Russell mural in House of Representatives was repaired on site by art conservator Rick Trela of Provo, Utah.

ORIGINAL GOVERNOR'S MANSION

Since 1981, the Museum Program has administered the Original Governor's Mansion (OGM) as an historic house museum offering guided tours to visitors from April through December. As a result of budget cuts, the Mansion curtailed tours during this period. The OGM Board, a group of leaders from the Helena community, support the Museum in restoration and renovation of the Mansion. In the last biennium the second floor Master Bathroom was researched and renovation began. Remodeling of the basement meeting room was accomplished. New outdoor signs - highlighting hours and National Register status - were installed. An original beaded light fixture was repaired and installed.

EDUCATION

School programs are an important part of the educational outreach of the Museum Program. During the biennium staff created two new programs - a four hour class for fourth graders called "Exploring Architecture" and "Make Your Own Museum" for fifth graders were developed. Footlocker exhibits traveled throughout the state and, as always, were fully booked during school sessions. Workshops for teachers were presented to the Montana Education Association, the Montana Federation of Teachers and the Four Georgians School teachers. Three activity guides for focused school field trips of the Montana Homeland exhibit were published: "Montana Indians," "Home and Community," and "Work and Technology" were developed with the assistance of Montana teachers and covers grade school to high school curriculum material.

A variety of public programs were developed and offered throughout this two year period. The March Lecture Series covered the themes "Pioneering Women" and "Medicine in Montana." Programs which

coincide with the Friends of the Society meeting were open to the public; archaeology, oral history, political history, and architectural history were some of the topics presented by the speakers. Annual programs were held at the Society for Archaeology Week, Preservation Week, and Museum Day. A special four-part program was held in conjunction with the Montana Reflections photography exhibit.

The 17th and 18th annual Montana History Conferences were held in Kalispell and Helena, and focused on the history of Northwest Montana and "Times of Trouble: Conflict in the West." Both programs featured nationally-known scholars and topic experts from Montana. Program and planning was organized by the Education Office with much time and effort contributed by the Society staff and local communities. The Montana History Day Competition was also organized by the Education Office. In 1992, 23 of the 80 entries qualified for National History Day; 26 students participated in the national competition in 1991. An instruction booklet for History Day competitors was published in 1991.

NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

A videotaped interview with Bill Mackay was filmed in the Mackay Gallery. It documented Bill's personal recollections of the Mackay Collection history. The Montana Power Company provided the video crew and the Museum staff researched and held the interview.

We received two Federal grants this biennium. The 1991 Institute of Museum Services (IMS) Conservation Project grant for $24,935 enabled the Museum to individually assess the condition of our entire textile collection and reorganize textile storage. A 1992 IMS General Operating Support grant of $28,427 was awarded which allowed us to hire a Museum Technician, and will provide an audience research consultant, and fund two Native American interns.

The Museum Resources Bibliography was formed. The titles of technical assistance publications of use to persons working in Montana museums and preservation organizations were purchased and supplied to the Montana State Library system. This allows the public to borrow any of these materials at little cost through interlibrary loan.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

The Museum Program will be facing new challenges over the course of the next few years. Demand for services is increasing - more requests for technical assistance, traveling exhibits, educational programs, school curriculum material, loans for outside exhibits and reference queries occur each year. With the loss of funding for Capitol tours, tour guides for the Original Governor's Mansion, and loss of a significant part of our supplies and

materials budget, the Museum will have to curtail some services. We hope, however, to provide viable alternatives in the absence of our normal programming.

We will continue to place care of museum collections as a program priority. Federal funds will be sought to accomplish discreet projects to improve storage conditions. Our storage space is extremely limited and we are currently in need of a large climate controlled off-site storage building to replace the inadequate facility we now use.

Documentation of collections is another area where improvement is needed. Cataloguing should be stepped up, a full inventory of collections is due and computerization of information concerning museum collections is critical. These issues of information management must be addressed.

Educational activities have been successful but our efforts in this area cannot at present meet the needs of our audience. We must also try to reach audience segments who have not traditionally been served adequately; groups such as foreign language speakers, handicapped groups and ethnic minorities.

As always the Museum Program will strive for educational excellence in presentation of our exhibits, programs, research, and publications.

PUBLICATIONS PROGRAM

The Montana Historical Society Publications Program consists of three departments 1) its nationally recognized, award-winning quarterly historical journal, Montana The Magazine of Western History; 2) its book publishing division, the Montana Historical Society Press, the state's only academic book publisher; and 3) the Montana Historical Society Museum Store. The program also is responsible for publication of the Society's quarterly newsletter, The Montana Post, and facilitating production of more ephemeral publications such as brochures.

MAGAZINE

Publication of the Society's quarterly history magazine is one way in which the Society fulfills its statutory mission of preserving Montana history and providing educational outreach. Established in 1951, Montana The Magazine of Western History enjoyed virtually instant success. Initially published in the traditional 6 x 9 format of other state historical journals, Montana was enlarged

within two years to its present over-sized format to accommodate more historical articles, illustrations, and full-color cover art. Since then, the formula for the journal's success has been maintained: well-researched, well-written articles that make significant contributions to Montana and western history; generous illustration with historical photographs, maps, charts, and other illustration; tasteful, engaging western art reproduced in high quality and full color on the magazine's cover.

This formula has worked well for the magazine. Montana is regarded as the finest historical journal of its kind in the nation and is a pace-setter for format, design, content, illustration, and general presentation of historical information. The magazine's circulation of more than 10,000 includes by contract: the 1,500 members of the Western History Association, which in turn represents more than 90 percent of all western history professionals (academic historians, National Park Service and other public historians, state and local historians, and western writers); 7,500 lay readers; and 1,000 occasional readers represented by those who purchase the magazine off the news stand. Half of Montana's subscribers live in Montana, yet Montana circulates in all fifty states and in fifteen foreign countries, as well as to 150 public libraries, county historical societies, and local history museums inside Montana and to 150 public and university libraries outside the state. Thus, Montana is a service to thousands of Montana residents and serves as a vehicle by which Montana and its rich cultural heritage are promoted throughout the nation and all over the world.

During the past two years, a broad-based effort has been made to streamline magazine operations and improve overall fiscal status. Those changes have had to do with:

--circulation: during the past two years we have reversed an alarming downward trend in circulation primarily through a sizable direct mail promotion effort. More than 200,000 separate direct mail pieces inviting recipients to subscribe to Montana have been distributed. Returns have ranged from 1 to 6 percent (a 1/2 to 1 percent response is considered good in the industry). Mailing lists used have included membership lists for other western state historical societies, various trail organizations, and the Montana State University Alumni Association.

--magazine design: during the past two years we have simplified the magazine's layout and design to effect a cleaner, more attractive appearance and to make typesetting and printing of the magazine less complicated. The result has been to facilitate the production process.

--content: during the past two years we have consciously recruited some of the best historians and writers working in

western history. Contributors have included: Wallace Stegner, William Kittredge, James P. Ronda, Robert M. Utley, Paul Andrew Hutton, Paula Petrik, and Brian W. Dippie. We also have recruited essays and articles from lay historians and history students. In addition, we have compiled a number of highly successful thematic issues, devoted to: popular culture and the West; western women's history; exploration; and the fur trade. We also have added a number of shorter essays and reviews on important and timely historical topics, significant western films, and television documentaries.

--advertising: by law, the magazine may devote no more than 10 percent of its space to advertising. By policy, the magazine carries only high-quality advertising directly related to western history. To maximize this limited opportunity, we have sought and obtained annual advertising contracts with seven western university presses by which these presses advertise their books regularly in the magazine. The effect has been to regularize billing, income, and planning for advertising space needs for the magazine.

--classified advertising: This category of magazine advertising is primarily a service to our readers and subscribers. As with display ads, classified advertising must be related to high-quality western history materials. We have consolidated our classified advertising into a format more nearly approximating compartmentalized newspaper classified advertising to afford a more attractive, usable format. The result has been an increase in magazine classified advertising.

Plans for Montana The Magazine of Western History for the next two years include:

--continued direct mail promotion to maintain and increase magazine circulation.

--investigating other forms of enhancing magazine visibility, including possible television advertising, cooperative projects with regional and local historical organizations in state, and wider distribution of the magazine in Montana.

--increasing cooperative efforts with other state institutions involved with Montana and western history. These include cooperative symposia with the state's institutions of higher education, the results of which may be published in the magazine, and encouraging oral history and other historical projects that produce timely and significant interviews and essays suitable for publication.

--maintaining the high quality of magazine's appearance and content that Montana readers have come to expect. Such

quality helps project a favorable, inviting, and respected image of the state and its history.

PRESS

The MHS Press's reputation as a respected publisher of high-quality books and pamphlets of scholarly and general interest continues to grow.

During the past two years, the Press took steps to ensure that the nationally acclaimed literary anthology, The Last Best Place, will remain in print for the foreseeable future.

The Press also initiated and has published two volumes in connection with a new anthology series. Those books include: The Great Sioux War, 1876-77, edited by Paul L. Hedren; and Montana Heritage, edited by Robert R. Swartout and Harry W. Fritz. All articles included in the Great Sioux War were drawn from past issues of Montana The Magazine of Western History, and approximately 60 percent of the articles included in Montana Heritage appeared previously in the magazine. Both books have sold well to scholarly and general audiences. The Great Sioux War was picked up by two national book clubs, and Montana Heritage, intended for classroom use in Montana history classes, is being used by teachers all over the state. Additional anthologies planned for the future include such topics as Lewis and Clark, Montana ethnic groups, Charles M. Russell, and mining.

The Press also has undertaken a number of book reprints, including Montana Native Plants, A Travelers's Companion to Montana History, and No Step Backward.

New books published by the Press, or in final stages of preparation for publication, include: A Guide to the Milwaukee Road in Montana, by Steve McCarter; Policing the Post Frontier by Robert Harvie; and Diaries of the Bozeman Trail, by Susan Doyle. Two other projects, less glamorous but highly important for researchers and public libraries around the state, are nearing completion. They are: a comprehensive forty-year index to Montana The Magazine of Western History; and a Guide to the Oral History Collections of the Montana Historical Society.

Plans for new publications during the next two years call for publication of a number of other projects that are either in the proposal stage or are under review.

MUSEUM STORE

The Publications Program is responsible for managing the Society's museum gift shop. The Museum Store continues to operate in a

fashion responsive to public demand primarily through direct mail to a broad base of people interested in western history and in a way that accommodates itself with Helena area businesses. Store proceeds support the MHS Press. In addition to offering merchandise appropriate and suitable to a state historical society, especially books, magazines, and prints related to Montana history and literature, the store serves as a clearing house for a number of questions and requests for information, which are answered free of charge or directed to appropriate programs within the Society or to other state offices or private institutions.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

We exist to encourage Montanans (individuals, organizations, units of government, government agencies) to dig in and find ways to preserve (maintain, protect, use, modify, remodel, interpret, argue and plan for) significant historic and prehistoric buildings and sites in their ownership or care. We aren't the preservers or policemen. We're cheerleaders, advice givers, shoulders, and periodically stern parents. We provide information, help conduct research, give illustrations, walk people through applications, regrant federal money to achieve specific goals, share good ideas, collect needed information, and provide comments to public agencies on whether their efforts to preserve cultural resources appear to meet legal requirements.

This philosophy underlies our work: that preserving and, where feasible, using many historic and prehistoric sites and buildings saves natural resources, provides labor intensive construction, offers interesting and useable space for living and working, makes our distinct history visible and understandable to us and visitors, and provides fascinating stylistic "street" art. This isn't "landmark" preservation, but recycling, public interpretation, and economic development in their most direct and beneficial forms.

As required by federal grant conditions and the Montana Antiquities Act, our staff is comprised of historians, architectural historians, archaeologists, an architect, and local government/grant administrators. We operate the office on a combination of federal and state funds and regrant a portion of the federal funds that we receive as a condition of grant receipt.

Our specific tasks include:

- helping Montanans research and list worthy properties in the

National Register of Historic Places;
- regranting federal funds to help communities conduct systematic research of groups of properties that might qualify for the Register;
- regranting very limited federal funds to help with the stabilization, remodeling, or preservation of buildings listed in the National Register;
- walking Montana developers and buildings owners through the paperwork needed to secure federal tax credits available for the rehabilitation of historic, income-producing buildings;
- certifying Montana local governments that wish to orchestrate local preservation efforts (with ordinances, boards, and staff) so that they can receive a portion of our federal grant dollars;
- providing comments to federal and state agencies, as required by federal and state preservation legislation, so that projects undertaken by those agencies can occur with limited impact to significant cultural resources;
- maintaining data on all cultural sites and buildings in Montana and on all previous inventories conducted to find and evaluate historic and prehistoric sites; and
- sponsoring or helping with a wide array of educational and interpretive efforts to improve everyone's sense of why historic buildings and sites have economic and emotional value.

Accomplishments

- The office was a primary sponsor of Montana's first two designated Archaeology Weeks, complete with posters, public notices, press releases, locally organized programs in two dozen locations, and a lecture series that put archaeologists and Native Americans on the same podium in small towns all around the state.

- By the end of this biennium we will likely have added at least 3 new communities or counties to the previous list of local governments with local preservation ordinances, boards, and preservation officers: Livingston, Anaconda, and Billings and/or Yellowstone County. They join Missoula, Helena and Lewis and Clark County, Great Falls and Cascade County, Big Horn County, Lewistown, Butte-Silver Bow, Bozeman, Missoula, Carbon County, Virginia City, Miles City. These preservation "certified" governments qualify to receive at least 10% of all federal preservation dollars awarded to our program.

- In order to give our Accomodations Tax funded National Register of Historic Places Sign Program real momentum, spark tourism interest, and broaden knowledge of the National Register program itself, we added a half-time Sign Coordinator to the office. When we hired Ellen, 70 National Register signs were up. Now there are 150 signs in place and another 150 orders in process.

- Our two archaeologists successfully applied to the Turner Foundation for money to support a field survey project on the

Flying D Ranch in Gallatin County that combined the expertise of archaeologists, environmental geologists and botanists, and Native American traditional leaders and ethnobotanists. The field project occurred during August 1992; analysis of the many sites identified and the historic and prehistoric use patterns that they represent will be finished early in 1993. The project appears to have been hugely successful in intertwining two cultures and several disciplines previously combined only at arms' length and offering the public "interpretable" use patterns in Southwestern Montana.

- The single most "stable" financial incentive for historic preservation through the last decade has been a federal income tax credit, by which a portion of income-producing historic building rehabilitation costs become tax credits to offset active income for buildings owners or developers. Over the last two years, these credits (and our active promotion of them and assistance with them) has spurred 5 millions dollars of redevelopment, including the remodeling of the Helena Federal Reserve into offices; the stabilization of the Boulder Hot Springs Hotel into a conference center; the renovation and reopening of the Sacajawea Inn in Three Forks; the refurbishing of the OW Ranch in Big Horn County; and five or six other smaller-scale projects: Porter Flats, Scandia Hall, the Goodkind Block.

- We are in our third year of running a "loaves and fishes" rehabilitation grant effort. Starting in 1990, we were again able to regrant a limited portion of federal dollars received to actual rehabilitation of National Register of Historic Places properties on a competitive basis. We've been spreading $40,000 dollars among 8 or 9 different projects where need and local enthusiasm are especially evident. Cuts taken by the July 1992 Montana special session will curtail the program--at least for this year.

- We applied for and have been awarded a small Montana Community for the Humanities Grant to help develop material for children that will spark their interest in and knowledge about how historic buildings illustrate Montana history.

- We've worked especially hard to help Native American Culture Committees understand and work with the National Register of Historic Places program in their efforts to preserve sites important for traditional cultural properties and unmarked burials. We've worked equally hard to help agency archaeologists and managers understand and support tribal interest in access to these programs. To that end, we've sponsored a joint conference for both groups, written a draft nomination for the Sweetgrass Hills as an important site through time for Native Americans, served on the newly formed Burial Board, and are working with tribes to add new Highway Markers to the system that interpret themes and places important to tribes.

- Regrant dollars awarded to communities or organizations for architectural, historical, or archaeological surveys of an area or resource type have resulted in a number of unusual National Register of Historic Places nominations: the Whoop-Up Trail, Old North Trail, archaeological resources along the Missouri River corridor, Finnish homestead buildings in Cascade County, and settlers' farms in Willow Creek, Gallatin County.

- We've encouraged several federal agencies to meet their required regulatory procedures under federal preservation law with "programmatic agreements:" legally approved products or procedures in lieu of standardized ones. These programmatics have and are resulting in a variety of educational or planning products far more beneficial to the state than ordinary regulatory procedures: Federal Highways--funding for a guidebook to remaining Milwaukee Railroad features; Environmental Protection Administration--planning document for all the Upper Clark Fork Superfund area, geared especially to potential industrial park development; Kootenai National Forest--historical narratives on logging railroads and springboard stumps, etc.

Future

In the next biennium, we anticipate:

- Continuing to conduct the basic work described above.

- Applying for another Turner Foundation grant that will support another multi-disciplinary and multi-cultural study of historic and prehistoric resources--designed for public education and land planning purposes.

- Assuming more responsibility for some roles now carried by the National Park Service. Recent amendments to the National Historic Preservation Act are likely to be implemented by turning final review of federal tax projects and perhaps National Register nominations over to states.

- Adding to and altering our state preservation planning materials in accordance with new requirements from the National Park Service. These will include substantially increased public involvement. We work hard to address required NPS formats and still make such documents useful and easily prepared--not monuments to bureaucracy.

- Working more closely with state nonprofit preservation and archaeological associations in providing educational materials and technical assistance to Montanans.

- Successfully completing the Montana Committee for the Humanities preservation education grant and using that to seek additional foundation or grant funds to prepare the materials selected or

recommended in this first phase.

- Continuing to try to find stable funding for at least a limited rehabilitation regrant program. Many of the properties enjoyed by visitors are maintained and run by nonprofit organizations who have great difficulty raising sufficient capital to maintain this historic/interpreted infrastructure or knowing how best to approach property care.

- Continuing to try to make state and federal preservation ideas and programs accessible to and useable for Montana's Native Americans.